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Identical letters dated 5 November 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I would like to take this opportunity to file a grave complaint concerning violations of United Nations Security Council resolutions under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, specifically Security Council resolution 1747 (2007) as well as other Security Council resolutions. These grave violations constitute a threat to peace and security, as well as non-compliance with international legal obligations.

On 4 November 2009, a cargo vessel, the *Francop*, was sailing under the flag of Antigua and Barbuda en route to Syria via the intended port of Beirut, as well as other ports. The ship's cargo contained, inter alia, 36 containers of hundreds of tons of a wide range of weaponry, including rockets, missiles, mortars, grenades and small arms and light weapons. The weapons — concealed, wrapped, and declared as civilian cargo in the ship's manifest, were hidden among hundreds of other containers aboard the ship that originated from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Paragraph 5 of Security Council resolution 1747 (2007) explicitly prohibits Iran from supplying, selling or transferring, directly or indirectly, any arms or related material. Therefore, the aforementioned shipment from Iran to Syria, or to any other country or entity, in particular to any terrorist entity, constitutes a severe violation of this and other resolutions.

The intended route of the *Francop* — coupled with the types of weaponry found on board — raise serious concerns that this incident also constitutes a violation of Security Council resolutions 1701 (2006) and 1373 (2001).

The aforementioned breach is only the latest in a series of recent violations by Iran documented and examined by the Committee established pursuant to resolution 1737 (2006), including the transfer of weapons aboard the *Monchegorsk* (January 2009) and the *Hansa India* (October 2009), both of which were carrying weapons en route from Iran to Syria. These events are part of a pattern of continued Iranian and Syrian grave breaches of Security Council resolutions and non-compliance with their international obligations.

Iran's national shipping company (IRISL), referenced in Security Council resolution 1803 (2008), has been repeatedly found to be involved in transporting weapons and other banned items in violation of United Nations Security Council resolutions.

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Moreover, such defiance constitutes a violation of international maritime commerce as it represents a serious threat to professional shipping crews carrying out their duties in good faith. As such, flag States, shipping and transporting companies, as well as crew members, are unknowingly and unwillingly exploited by Iran's repeated transgressions.

Israel therefore requests the Security Council to take the appropriate action in view of these constant violations and to further investigate this complaint. My Government remains willing to provide additional information regarding the contents of the cargo of the *Francop*.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Gabriela **Shalev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Note: A video showing the initial discovery of the weapons aboard the *Francop* is available from http://www.mfa.gov.il/MFA/Terrorism-+Obstacle+to+Peace/Terrorism+and+Islamic+Fundamentalism-/nava-force-intercepts-Iranian-weapon-ship-4-Nov-2009.htm.